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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON
RELEASE OF SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

On September 27, during my address to the United Nations General Assembly, I stated that the Secretary-General's Report on Nuclear Weapons would be released shortly. At that time I said that this report must command the careful attention of all people interested in the development of a rational and stable world order. The report has now been released. In my view, it represents an important and constructive contribution to the continuing international discussion on the effects of nuclear weapons and the implications of the acquisition and further development of such weapons.

The report comprises three sections. The first section examines the effects of the use of nuclear weapons. It discusses the destruction produced by relatively small nuclear weapons and the widespread devastation which would follow the use of more powerful weapons of which there are now substantial numbers. These effects have been considered in relation to both the civilian population and military targets.

The second section analyzes the economic implications for governments of the acquisition of nuclear weapons. The report reaches the conclusion that, especially for the lesser-developed countries, the allocation of technological and material resources necessary to produce nuclear deterrent forces would impose a very heavy burden on the civilian economy and would adversely affect standards of living.

The third and concluding section of the report deals with the security implications of the acquisition and further development of nuclear weapons. The examination of the various national and international factors involved leads to the conclusion that a solution

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the problem of international security cannot be found in an increase in the number of states possessing nuclear weapons nor in the retention of nuclear weapons by the present powers. The report supports steps such as a non-proliferation treaty, a comprehensive test ban, effective measures to safeguard the security of non-nuclear countries and the extension of nuclear-free zones, all of which would help to slow down the arms race and open the way to more far-reaching agreements. It also emphasizes that such limited measures should not be regarded as ends sufficient in themselves but only as steps which could lead to a reduction in the level of nuclear armaments, a lessening of world tension and the eventual elimination of nuclear armaments.

Canada played an active part in the discussions which led to the decision to undertake the study and a Canadian helped in the preparation of the report. During the First General Assembly, the Polish, Norwegian and Canadian Delegations co-operated in developing a resolution calling for a study of the effects of nuclear weapons as well as the security and economic implications for states of the acquisition and further development of nuclear weapons. With Japan, Mexico and Nigeria as additional sponsors, the Resolution was unanimously endorsed by the First Committee and subsequently by the General Assembly. In accordance with its terms, the Secretary-General appointed an advisory committee of twelve outstanding nuclear experts, including Dr. Wilfred B. Lewis, Senior Vice-President (Science) of Atomic Energy of Canada, Limited. This group met at intervals during the year; these meetings and the correspondence exchanged between the experts culminated in the report which has been released by the Secretary-General in New York.